



Rosario Palmieri

Vice President

Infrastructure, Legal and Regulatory Policy

September 16, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) appreciates the bipartisan effort you have undertaken to develop H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013. This critical legislation ensures continued investment in the nation's inland and coastal waterways and begins reforms to the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program that will enhance delivery of key infrastructure projects.

The nation's inland waterways help keep transportation costs competitive and are an important means of transport for manufacturers and other industrial shippers, moving products and commodities valued at \$185 billion annually. The legislation also addresses the long-standing issue of underinvestment in our nation's ports and harbors by directing additional levels of investment from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for critical harbor maintenance projects.

The opening of the Panama Canal expansion project in 2015, the goal of doubling the nation's export capacity and the need to support continued economic growth provide a mandate for Congress to advance H.R. 3080. However, manufacturers believe that the legislation can be enhanced following your Committee's markup. Manufacturers believe that increasing the funding for the Inland Waterway Trust Fund and tying revenues to a comprehensive capital development plan will help achieve the full potential of a globally competitive inland waterway system and address the increasing unreliability facing the system. With over half the locks exceeding their design life, the need to modernize is well-documented.

To serve global markets successfully, grow manufacturing and create jobs here, increasing investments in all modes of transportation are required to keep pace with our global competitors. Investing in and completing infrastructure projects at ports, harbors and inland waterways are essential to maintaining the nation's economic competitiveness and supporting an export economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this important issue to manufacturers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Rosario Palmieri', written in a cursive style.

Leading Innovation. Creating Opportunity. Pursuing Progress.

733 10th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001 • P 202-637-3177 • F 202-637-3182 • www.nam.org